

Release Date: January 6, 2025

Boots on the Ground Fund

Request for Proposals

Greater Cincinnati Foundation (GCF) is pleased to announce the next round of *Boots on the Ground Fund* grants in its continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of small, community-based organizations driving change in our city. Through a partnership with the City of Cincinnati and generous support from other funders, more than \$750,000 will be made available for grants, up to \$25,000. Proposals will be considered for small, grassroots organizations with operating budgets of less than \$1 million, that demonstrate the involvement of community members in their decision-making and give voices to those directly impacted by issues.

Funding Focus

The *Boots on the Ground Fund* seeks to provide support to organizations that have demonstrated experience and aim to address:

- Homelessness Prevention and Access to Affordable Housing
- Access to Affordable, Healthy Foods – Reduction of Food Deserts
- Access to Healthcare and Public Health
- Workforce Development
- Youth Development
- Youth Gun Violence Reduction and Prevention
- Mental and Behavioral Health, including Substance Use Services

The focus areas listed above are flexible and in response to community needs.

Use of Funds

- Funding may be used to support, expand, or strengthen existing programs, launch a new program, or build organizational capacity. Collaboration between organizations is highly encouraged.
- Funding will not be awarded for campaigns, capital campaigns, or special events.

Criteria

- Applicants must be classified as tax-exempt by the IRS, typically 501(c)(3) status or government agency.

- If the organization is not a 501(c)(3), a fiscal sponsor may be utilized. However, the fiscal sponsor must be identified in the application.
- Applicants must have an annual operating budget of less than \$1 million.
- Programs or projects must directly impact residents within the City of Cincinnati.
- Preference will be given for demonstrating:
 - Prioritization of inclusion, community voice, and engaging leaders of color
 - Clear and measurable outcomes or SMART Goals
 - **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound**
 - Partnerships and alignment to community-wide efforts
 - Learnings from past experience
 - Asset-based approaches in the funding focus areas
- 2024 *Boots on the Ground Fund* grant recipients are not eligible to apply.

Application Process

Apply to the *Boots on the Ground Fund* Request for Proposal through the GCF online grantmaking system, Foundant at www.gcfdn.org/Foundant. After creating a new account and/or logging in, select the “Boots on the Ground Application.” **Complete the application and submit it by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025.**

The following (3) three documents must be uploaded for the application to be considered complete:

- Project Budget
- Income statement and balance sheet / Organizational Budget (or most recent 990, if applicable)
- Board List

Deadline

To be considered for funding, proposals must be submitted **by Friday, February 7, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EST.**

Proposal Timeline

Key Steps	Date
Request for Proposal/RFP Workshop* Virtual – Register Here	Thursday, January 16, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
Nonprofit Management Workshop:	Thursday, January 23, 2025

<p>“Governance and Compliance” <i>Optional</i> - Register Here</p>	<p>1:00 – 2:00 p.m. GCF – River Room 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202</p>
<p>Nonprofit Management Workshop: “Fundraising and Development” <i>Optional</i> - Register Here</p>	<p>Thursday, January 30, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. GCF – River Room 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202</p>
<p>Nonprofit Management Workshop: “Program Design, Delivery, and Evaluation” <i>Optional</i> - Register Here</p>	<p>Thursday, February 6, 2025 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. GCF – River Room 720 E. Pete Rose Way, Suite 120 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202</p>
<p>Proposal Deadline</p>	<p>Friday, February 7, 2025 5:00 p.m. EST</p>
<p>Decisions Communicated</p>	<p>April 2025</p>
<p>Funding Received</p>	<p>April 2025</p>

*The RFP workshop is meant to provide a brief overview of the application process as well as a deeper dive into this RFP. We encourage all applicants to review the application prior to the grant workshop.

Questions

GCF is here as a resource throughout the application process. Please direct any additional questions to bootsontheground@gcfdn.org or (513) 241-2880.